

**2011 Michigan Notable Books Programming Ideas
from the Michigan Center for the Book**
www.michigan.gov/mcfb

The 2011 Michigan Notable Books list is the Library of Michigan's annual selection of up to 20 recommended books featuring high-quality titles with wide public appeal that are either written by a Michigan resident or about a Michigan-related topic. These titles offer wonderful programming opportunities for a diverse range of your community members. The Michigan Center for the Book has created a list of general tips and specific ideas for each book on the 2011 Michigan Notable Books list.

Try out these suggestions and share your programming and read-a-like ideas with us at reishk@michigan.gov. We'll be glad to add them to the list.

Suggestions for the Michigan Notable Books list:

- Do an exhibit of the 2011 Michigan Notable Books.
- Do an exhibit of Michigan Notable books through the years.
- Do an exhibit of Michigan Notable books through the years on a similar topic, i.e. automobile industry, children's books, nature, architecture, novels set in Detroit, biographies, the lakes, etc.
- Arrange a visit from one of the 2011 authors or an author from a previous year. You can find the previous lists at www.michigan.gov/notablebooks.

Supporting sites and information:

Exhibit information:

- For ideas about exhibits, view library exhibits online at the Smithsonian Institution (www.sil.si.edu/SILPublications/Online-Exhibitions).
- *Library Displays Handbook*. Mark Schaeffer, H.W. Wilson, 1991. Available in MeLCat.
- *Creating a Winning Online Exhibition: A Guide for Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. Martin R. Kalfatovic, American Library Association, 2002. Available in MeLCat.
- For visual marketing ideas, see www.fibre2fashion.com/industry-article/6/547/the-art-of-visual-merchandising1.asp or *Visual Merchandising: Window and In-store Displays for Retail*. Tony Morgan, Laurence King, 2008.

Author Visit information:

- Find information on how to set up author visits, including sample contracts, tips and to do lists at www.michigan.gov/authorvisits.
- To see if an author will do library events, contact Randy Riley (rileyr1@michigan.gov) or Kris Rzepczynski (rzepczynskik@michigan.gov).

Michigan Notable Books and Tour information:

- Current and previous Michigan Notable Book lists are at www.michigan.gov/notablebooks.
- The 2011 Michigan Notable Book Author tour schedule is at www.michigan.gov/notablebooks.
- For Michigan Notable Book posters, bookmarks or book cover medallions (10 for \$2.50); please contact Randy Riley (rileyr1@michigan.gov). Requests are subject to availability.

Suggestions for individual Michigan Notable Books:

- Offer read-a-likes or learn more titles for your readers.
- Do an exhibit based on the book content.
- Arrange a presentation based on the book content with a local community group.
- Suggest a day trip to readers that is linked to the book or arrange a trip for your local book group.
- Suggest or host a virtual tour through related MeL Michigana images (www.mel.org) or through a topical web site.

***Apparition & Late Fictions: A Novella and Stories* by Thomas Lynch**

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- How to write a short story.
- Have an evening of readings from a local writer's group.
- Do a book discussion showcasing other writers who have day jobs that influence their writing.
- Do a discussion focusing on the importance of place in literature, perhaps with Liesel Litzenburger as a speaker.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Bodies in Motion and at Rest: On Metaphor and Mortality* by Thomas Lynch.
- *Freshwater Boys: Stories* by Adam Schuitema.
- *American Salvage* by Bonnie Jo Campbell.
- *Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit* by Michael Zadoorian.
- *Gryphon: New and Selected Stories* by Charles Baxter.

***Blues in Black and White: The Landmark Ann Arbor Blues Festivals* by Michael Erlewine, Stanley Livingston (photographer) and Tom Erlewine (designer)**

Exhibits:

- Display and play CDs by featured performers.
- Display Blues photography by Don McGhee. Available in southeast Michigan at 248-569-7676.
- Photographs or music by contemporary, local musicians.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- A discussion on Idlewild, another important part of Michigan's African American and music history.
- History of the blues, or of American music.
- A blues performance by local musicians.
- Show the award winning documentary *A Great Day in Harlem*, as that was about another important gathering of black musicians.
- Do "A Great Day in Harlem" program with Stu Johnson, available at 248-549-2969.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *The Rough Guide to the Blues* by Nigel Williamson.
- *Something About the Blues* by Al Young.
- *When the Church Becomes Your Party: Contemporary Gospel Music* by Deborah Smith Pollard.

Movies:

- *A Great Day in Harlem*, 1994 documentary, Homevision.

Trips:

- Travel to a Blues club in Detroit or Chicago.
- Attend a local music festival.
 - Detroit Blues Society - www.detroitbluessociety.org/
 - Blues Festival Guide - www.bluesfestivalguide.com/

Chrysler's Turbine Car: The Rise and Fall of Detroit's Coolest Creation by Steve Lehto

Exhibits:

- Innovations in automobiles.
- Auto show at the library.
- Local photo/essay display or contest on "My First Car."

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Show and discuss *Flash of Genius* movie.
- Host a "My First Car" discussion.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Flash of Genius: And Other True Stories of Invention* by John Seabrook.
- *Storied Independent Automakers: Nash, Hudson, and American Motors* by Charles Hyde.
- *Chevrolet Volt: Charging into the Future* by Larry Edsall.
- *Riding the Roller Coaster: A History of the Chrysler Corporation* by Charles Hyde.

Movies:

- *Flash of Genius*, 2009, Universal Studios.
- *Tucker: The Man and His Dreams*, 1998, Paramount.

Trips:

- Go to a local auto museum. See a list on the last page.
- See the Detroit Public Library's Skillman Branch National Automotive History Collection.

Detroit Disassembled by Andrew Moore

Exhibits:

- Photography by southeast Michigan photographers, Shawn Lee, at 248-764-0600, or Alan Wigodski, at 248-250-3823.
- Photography of local abandoned buildings – search on Flickr under town or buildings name.
- [Early Detroit Images from the Burton Historical Collection](#), a collection in MeL Michigana at www.mel.org.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Urban exploration in Detroit.
- Abandoned buildings and lost architecture in your local area.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Lost Detroit: Stories Behind the Motor City's Majestic Ruins* by Dan Austin, photography by Sean Doerr.
- *Punching Out: One Year in a Closing Auto Plant* by Paul Clemens.
- *Ghostly Ruins: America's Forgotten Architecture* by Harry Skrdla.
- *63 Alfred Street: Where Capitalism Failed: The Life and Times of a Venetian Gothic Mansion in Downtown Detroit* by John Kossik.
- *Detroit Then and Now* by Cheri Y. Gay.

Trips:

- To Detroit, to see old buildings!! Tours led by InsideDetroit, www.insidedetroit.org/, or Stewart McMillin, mcmillintours.com/, are good ones to start with.

The Detroit Electric Scheme: A Mystery by D.E. Johnson

Exhibits:

- Local auto club show at the library.
- Michigan mystery authors display.
- Fiction or non-fiction Michigan auto books display.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Bring a car guy to talk about the advances in electric cars and their history going back to the Model T.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *The Electric Vehicle and the Burden of History* by David A. Kirsch.
- *Electric and Hybrid Cars: A History* by Curtis D. Anderson and Judy Anderson.
- *The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motor cars, and the Legacy* by Charles K. Hyde.
- *The Model T: A Centennial History* by Robert Casey.

Movies:

- *Who Killed the Electric Car*, 2006, Sony.

Trips:

- Go to a local auto museum. See a list on the last page.

Eden Springs: A Novella by Laura Kasischke

Exhibits:

- The portrayal of religious sects in literature.
- Michigan religious sects.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Ron Taylor - Presenter on the House of David/ Mary's City of David, cityofdavid@att.net.
- Wally Jung - Presenter on House of David with historic postcards, postcardwally@comcast.net.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Brother Benjamin: A History of the Israelite House of David* by Clare E. Adkin.
- *The Righteous Remnant: The House of David* by Robert S. Fogarty.
- *Mary's City of David: A Pictorial History of the Israelite House of David as Reorganized by Mary Purnell* by R. James Taylor.
- *House of David* by Christopher Siriano.
- *House of David Baseball Team* by Joel Hawkins and Terry Bertolino.
- *Cartwheels in a Sari* by Jayanti Tamm.
- *The Road to Wellville* by T. C. Boyle.

Movies:

- *A Compelling Curiosity: A History of the Israelite House of David in Benton Harbor, MI*. Palmer Divide Productions.
jimanddiane@palmervideoproductions.

Trips:

- See the Mary's City of David museum tour, www.maryscityofdavid.org/html/museum.html.
- Go to a vintage baseball game – House of David Echoes Baseball Club, playing 1858 rules, “No Gloves -No Fear.” The schedule is at www.maryscityofdavid.org/html/base_ball_season.html.

Freshwater Boys: Stories by Adam Schuitema

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- How to write a short story.
- Have an evening of readings from a local writer's group.
- Do a discussion focusing on the importance of place in literature, perhaps with Liesel Litzenburger as a speaker.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *American Salvage* by Bonnie Jo Campbell.
- *Nick Adams Stories* by Ernest Hemingway.
- *Fresh Water: Women Writing on the Great Lakes* edited by Alison Swan.
- *Now You Love Me* by Liesel Litzenburger.
- *Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit* by Michael Zadoorian.

The Hanging Tree: A Starvation Lake Mystery by Bryan Gruley

Exhibits:

- A murder mystery evening at the library.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- A presentation on a local true crime from the local police or DA's office.
- A presentation on an historic crime from a local historian.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Starvation Lake: A Mystery* by Bryan Gruley (1st book in series).
- Nancy Barr's Robin Hamilton mystery series.
- Joseph Heywood's Woods Cop mystery series.
- *A Superior Death* or *Winter Study* by Nevada Barr.
- *Fire Point* or *Cold: A Novel* by John Smolens.
- Steve Hamilton's Alex McKnight mystery series.

Lord of Misrule by Jaimy Gordon

Exhibits:

- History of horse racing.
- Famous jockeys.

- Harness racing in Michigan.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- A “math is fun” program that explains the odds or statistics of horse racing.
- A presentation from a local horse rescue on what race horses go through or their life after, such as horseshaven.org from Howell.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Lean on Pete* by Willy Vlautin.
- Early Dick Francis titles.
- *Black Maestro: The Epic Life of an American Legend* by Joe Drape.
- *Secretariat* by William Nack.
- *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* by Laura Hillenbrand.

Movies:

- *Secretariat*, 2010, Disney.
- *Seabiscuit*, 2003, Universal Studios.

Trips:

- Hazel Park Raceway, hazelparkraceway.com/.
- Pinnacle Race Track in New Boston (if open).

A Michigan Polar Bear Confronts the Bolsheviks: A War Memoir by Godfrey J. Anderson, Gordon Olson (editor)

Exhibits:

- Voices of a Never Ending Dawn collection at the Bentley Historical Library at the Library of Michigan, www.polarbeardocumentary.com/soldiers_across_the_country.html.
- [Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections](http://www.mel.org), a collection in MeL Michigana at www.mel.org.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Screen *Voices of a Never Ending Dawn* documentary at your local VFW or American Legion Post.
- Have a local Veteran’s History Project.
- Have a local historian present on World War I service in your community.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *The United States Intervention in North Russia, 1918-1919: The Polar Bear Odyssey* by Roger Crownover.

- *American Intervention in Northern Russia, 1918-1919: The Polar Bear Expedition: A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan Historical Collections* compiled by Leonard Coombs.
- *Michigan's Polar Bears: The American Expedition to North Russia, 1918-1919* by Richard Doolen.

Movies:

- *Voices of a Never-Ending Dawn*, 2009, Pamela Peak Productions, www.polarbeardocumentary.com.

Trips:

- Polar Bear Monument in the White Chapel Cemetery in Troy.

Mine Towns: Buildings for Workers in Michigan's Copper Country by Alison K. Hoagland

Exhibits:

- Have a display of Michigan's natural minerals & rock or books on Michigan minerals.
- Have a display of books on Upper Peninsula industry workers.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Host a Sierra Club discussion about mining efforts underway now in Michigan.
- Have a presentation on mineral markets.
- Invite a speaker to discuss modern and historic uses of particular minerals.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Hollowed Ground: Copper Mining and Community Building on Lake Superior, 1840s-1990s* by Larry Lankton.
- *Hershey: Milton S. Hershey's Extraordinary Life of Wealth, Empire and Utopian Dreams* by Michael D'Antonio.
- *Fordlandia* by Greg Grandin.
- *Strangers and Sojourners: A History of Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula* by Arthur W. Thurner.
- *The Making of a Mining District: Keweenaw Native Copper 1500-1870* by David J. Krause.
- *Calumet: Copper Country Metropolis* by Dave Engel and Gerry Mantel.

Movies:

- *Michigan Copper Country: The History of Copper Mining in Michigan's Upper Peninsula*, 2003, Dan Hermanson, the History Channel.

Trips:

- The Keweenaw National Historic Park, www.nps.gov/kewe/index.htm.

- A. S. Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Technical University in Houghton.

Picturing Hemingway's Michigan by Michael R. Federspiel

Exhibits:

- Photographs of Upper Michigan in Hemingway's time.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- A book discussion where you also read "A Moveable Feast" and then compare and contrast Hemingway's time in the two places.
- The role of place in literature.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *The Nick Adams Stories* by Ernest Hemingway.
- *The Torrents of Spring* by Ernest Hemingway.
- *Hemingway: Up in Michigan Perspectives* edited by Frederic J. Svoboda and Joseph J. Waldmeir.
- *Hemingway in Michigan* by Constance Cappel Montgomery.
- *Voelker's Pond: A Robert Traver Legacy* by Ed Wargin and James McCullough.
- *Vintage Views of the Charlevoix-Petoskey Region* by M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson.

Movies:

- *Ernest Hemingway: Life in Michigan*, 2007, WCMU Public Television.

Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Redefining an American City by John Gallagher

Exhibits:

- Ask children and adults to draw their ideal city.
- Have people submit suggestions and post on an idea wall.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Panel discussion on "reimagining" your city. For example, bring in someone from your local economic development group, cultural groups, a speaker on sustainability, the municipal zoning office, etc.
- Have a community discussion of an idea wall.
- Invite a local MSU Extension office person to speak on local agricultural, environmental or sustainability issues, www.msue.msu.edu/portal/default.cfm.
- Discuss trigger programs or anchor events for your city and bring speakers from programs like the Kalamazoo Promise program, the Grand Rapids Art Prize program, the Ann Arbor Art Fair, etc.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Michigan's Economic Future: A New Look* by Charles L. Ballard.
- *Who's Your City?: How the Creative Economy Is Making Where to Live the Most Important Decision of Your Life* by Richard Florida.
- *Urban Ecology* by Stefano Boeri.

Sawdusted: Notes from a Post-boom Mill by Raymond Goodwin

Exhibits:

- History of the Michigan lumber industry.
- A display of local wood artists' work.
- Host the Smithsonian *The Way We Worked* exhibit, www.michiganhumanities.org/programs/The.php.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Talk about the place of modern sawmills and lumbering in Michigan or the United States.
- Have a woodworking or whittling how-to and demonstration.
- Host a Sierra Club presentation on the modern forestry industry.
- A discussion of the representation of blue collar coming-age in books or movies.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Our Only May Amelia* by Jennifer Holm (YA).
- *Serena* by Ron Rash.
- *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work* by Matthew B. Crawford.
- *On the Clock: Contemporary Short Stories of Work* edited by Jeff Vande Zande and Josh Maday.

Trips:

- A walking tour of local trees with a local arborist.

Sixty to Zero: An Inside Look at the Collapse of General Motors and the Detroit Auto Industry by Alex Taylor III

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Have a job fair focusing on changing professions and bring in representatives from local job retraining programs.
- Discussion on the automotive industry bail out and the economic role of automakers in America's future.
- Host a discussion on Michigan's auto industry, perhaps with a speaker from MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, www.ippsr.msu.edu/.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *What's Good for General Motors: Solving America's Industrial Conundrum* by Thomas A. Crumm.
- *Punching Out: One Year in a Closing Auto Plant* by Paul Clemens.
- *Why GM Matters* by William Holstein.
- *Crash Course: The American Automobile Industry's Road to Bankruptcy and Bailout and Beyond* by Paul Ingrassia.
- *A Savage Factory: An Eyewitness Account of the Auto Industry's Self-Destruction* by Robert J. Dewar.

The Sweetness of Freedom: Stories of Immigrants by Stephen Ostrander and Martha Bloomfield

Exhibits:

- Put up a display of books and photos of Michigan's famous immigrants.
- Local history photos of immigrant groups through various times.
- Host an ethnic traditions display and have community members bring in souvenirs, clothing, figurines, etc. from their heritage.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Host a foreign food potluck, where patrons bring in "ethnic" dishes that are enjoyed by their families.
- Who are/were the main immigrant group in your town – have a presentation on how they built/changed/are changing the town.
- Host a discussion on migrant labor in Michigan, perhaps with a speaker from MSU's Julian Samora Research Institute, www.jsri.msu.edu/.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Stealing Buddha's Dinner* by Bich Minh Nguyen.
- *Yellow: Stories* by Don Lee.
- *Discovering the Peoples of Michigan* series from Michigan State University Press.
- *History of the Finns in Michigan* by Armas K. E. Holmio.
- *Flight to Freedom: The Story of the Vietnamese of West Michigan* by Gordon Olson.

Movies:

- *Fruit of Dreams: The Mexican Cherry Pickers of Traverse City*, William Jamerson, Forgotten Films.

Trips:

- Visit a local "Little Italy" or "Chinatown" or other immigrant cultural area for a dinner trip or for the celebration of a holiday.

To Account for Murder by William C. Whitbeck

Exhibits:

- A display of articles on famous local crime(s).

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- A presentation on a local true crime from the local police or DA's office.
- A presentation on an historic crime from a local historian.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Three Bullets Sealed His Lips* by Bruce A. Rubenstein (non-fiction account of the same murder).
- *The Purple Gang: Organized Crime in Detroit, 1910-1945* by Paul R. Kaveff.
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver. (Reader's Guide available in One Book Archive at www.michigan.gov/mcfb).
- *Isadore's Secret: Sin, Murder, and Confession in a Northern Michigan Town* by Mardi Link.
- *The Tarnished Eye: A Novel of Suspense* by Judith Guest.
- *Arc of Justice* by Kevin Boyle.

Working Words: Punching the Clock and Kicking Out the Jams edited by M.L. Liebler

Exhibits:

- History of work in Michigan from MI's fur trade beginnings, to mining, farming, lumbering, automotive plants, etc.
- Images from the Walter P. Reuther Library's The Labor Movement and Organizations online image archive, www.reuther.wayne.edu/image/tid/6.
- Host the Smithsonian The Way We Worked exhibit, www.michiganhumanities.org/programs/The.php.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Host a panel discussion on "working." A discussion like this can take a variety of angles. An example is M.L. Liebler, editor of *Working Words*, Lolita Hernandez, author of *Autopsy of an Engine and Other Stories from the Cadillac Plan*, and Ben Hamper, author of *Rivethead*.
- Do a young adult program on what their idea of work is and where they feel they are going in the future.
- Have a program pairing professionals in certain fields with young adults interested in the field, as a series of interviews about what the profession is like, etc.
- Program on how to record oral histories for your community's signature industry or plant.

- Poetry Open Mic program on the topic of “working.”

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Autopsy of an Engine and Other Stories from the Cadillac Plant* by Lolita Hernandez.
- *Rivthead: Tales from the Assembly Line* by Ben Hamper.
- *On the Clock: Contemporary Short Stories of Work* edited by Jeff Vande Zande and Josh Maday.
- *American Working-Class Literature: An Anthology*, edited by Nicholas Coles and Janet Zandy.
- *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do* by Studs Terkel.
- *Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work* by Matthew B. Crawford.

Wounded Warrior: The Rise and Fall of Michigan Governor John Swainson by Lawrence M. Glazer

Exhibits:

- Display of Michigan political biographies.
- Historical display of Michigan governors.
- Virtual tour of the Governors of Michigan collection in Seeking Michigan, provided by the State of Michigan Archives, seekingmichigan.org/discover-collection?collection=p4006coll2.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- Have a local judge visit to talk about what being a judge is like.
- Have a local historian talk about historical politics of your community, especially from the 1960s era.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *See Dick and Jen Run: The 2006 Michigan Race for Governor* by Tim Skubick.
- *Stewards of the State the Governors of Michigan* by George Weeks.
- *William G. Milliken: Michigan's Passionate Moderate* by Dave Dempsey.

Trips:

- Go to Lansing to visit the State of Michigan Archives to view materials on Michigan’s governors and see the historic State Capitol building.

You Don't Look Like Anyone I Know: A True Story of Family, Face-Blindness, and Forgiveness by Heather Sellers

Exhibits:

- Photos of people who look alike, for example family members.
- Play a giant memory game with pictures of faces (famous or otherwise) hung on a wall or laid on a large table. Patrons would be able to flip over two at a time and play memory, like the children's game.

Presentation or Book Discussion Topics:

- A program on neurological disorders by a local professor or neurologist.
- Have a police sketch artist give a talk and explain what he does, because they rely on being able to discern minute differences in people's faces, and are the exact opposites of people with face blindness.

Read-A-Likes and Learn More titles:

- *Missing Mark* by Julie Kramer.
- *Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind* by V. S. Ramachandran.
- *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales* by Oliver Sacks.
- *The Mind's Eye* by Oliver Sacks.
- *Measure of the Heart: A Father's Alzheimer's, A Daughter's Return* by Mary Ellen Geist.

Automotive and Automotive History Museums and Libraries in Michigan

- **Alfred P. Sloan Museum** in Flint, sloanmuseum.com.
- **Automotive Hall of Fame** in Dearborn, automotivehalloffame.org.
- **Detroit Historical Museum** in Detroit, detroithistorical.org.
- **G.M. World** in Detroit, gm.com.
- **Gilmore Car Museum** in Hickory Corners, gilmorecarmuseum.org.
- **The Henry Ford Museum** in Dearborn, hfmgv.org.
- **Ford Rouge Factory Tour** in Dearborn, hfmgv.org.
- **National Automotive History Collection** at the Detroit Public Library's Skillman Branch, www.detroitpubliclibrary.org.
- **R.E. Olds Transportation Museum** in Lansing, reoldsmuseum.org.
- **Walter P. Chrysler Museum** in Auburn Hills, chryslerheritage.com.
- **Ye Olde Carriage Shoppe** in Spring Arbor, 517-750-4300.